

BARG Newsletter July 2024



Next General Meeting BARG inc
11:00am, Saturday 27th July 2024

At the Airport - All Welcome

Contacting us

BARG@BARG.ORG.AU

We're on the web.

www.barg.org.au

https://twitter.com/vk3_barg

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/VK3BML/>

Contents

Contents.....	2
President's Report July 2024	3
The Next BARG General Meeting	4
NOTICE OF BARG Inc ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	4
ABC HORSHAM 594 kHz 3WV MAST	5
America's Cup Special Callsign	6
Not Forgotten Age of Country Victoria's Broadcasting	7
BAREC RADIOFEST 2024.....	10
RD Contest AUGUST 17 th – 18 th 2024	10
Membership Fees Due	11
GO PORTABLE AT MOONAMBEL!	11
BARG Members Club Dining Events	14
BARG Coffee Mornings.....	14
50 Years Later, This Apollo-Era Antenna Still Talks to Voyager 2.....	15
National Tree Day Sunday 28 th July 2024.....	17
SGARS 80 Metre Contest 2024.....	17
44th A.L.A.R.A. CONTEST	18
Magazine Reviews	19
QST July 2024 Review	19
Lo-Key, Journal of the VK QRP Club, June 2024, No 162	20
Silicon Chip July 2024 Review	21
Sprat, Journal of the G-QRP Club, Summer 2024, No 199.....	22
BARG Office Bearer Nomination Forms.....	23

Cover Photograph, Peter VK3APW

Times and dates of nets as below

Club Nets: VHF NET: Every Tuesday Night at 8 pm on 146.750 MHz - VK3RBA

HF NET: Every Thursday Night at 8 pm on 3.608 MHz - VK3BML

6m NET: Every Tuesday Night at 8:30 pm on 53.650Mhz RX / 52.650Mhz TX - FM
with a 91.5 tone - VK3RWU

LINKED REPEATERS: *The local VK3RBA-70cm repeater on Mt Buninyong is part of a network of linked repeaters covering North-Western Victoria.*

Access details for this repeater have recently changed.

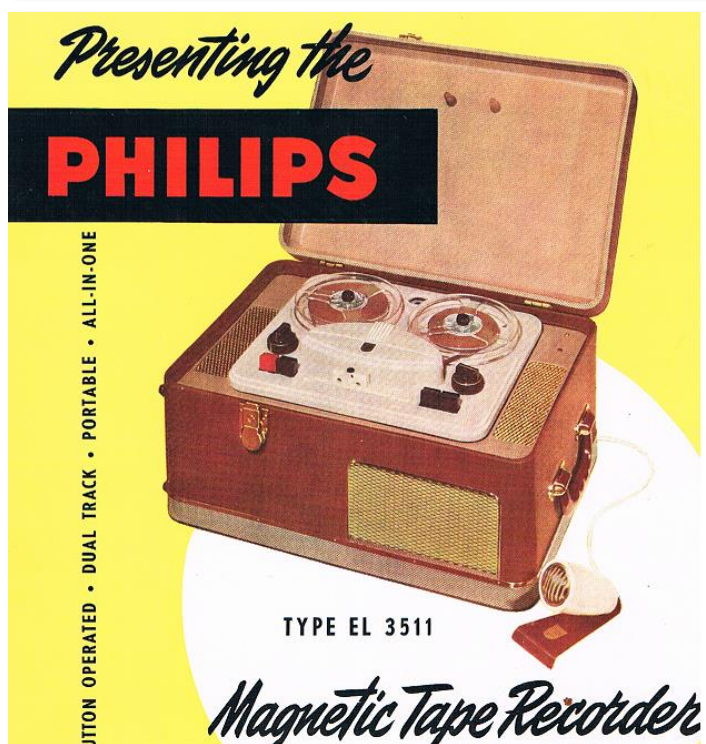
For full details of this linked network and access details see <https://www.qrz.com/lookup/vk3rba>

You can listen to the system live <http://vk3rba.dyndns.org:441/>

This linked system may be accessed via IRLP node 9503.



President's Report July 2024



The Next BARG General Meeting
11:00am, Saturday 27th of July 2024

No BARG Construction Day
has been scheduled for August due to the
condition of the rooms after the breakin.

BARG inc. OFFICE BEARERS

President	Ben Daniel VK3NRD	Ordinary Member	Tom George VK3DMK
Vice President	Colin Consiglio VK3NCC	Ordinary Member	Ian Fairweather VK3YFD
Secretary	Peter Westgarth VK3APW	Ordinary Member	Doug Ellery VK3DRE
Treasurer	Chris Huggins VK3QY	Ordinary Member	David Martin VK3KQT
Ordinary Member	Craig Cook VK3KG	Ordinary Member	Mal White VK3OAK

NOTICE OF BARG Inc
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING

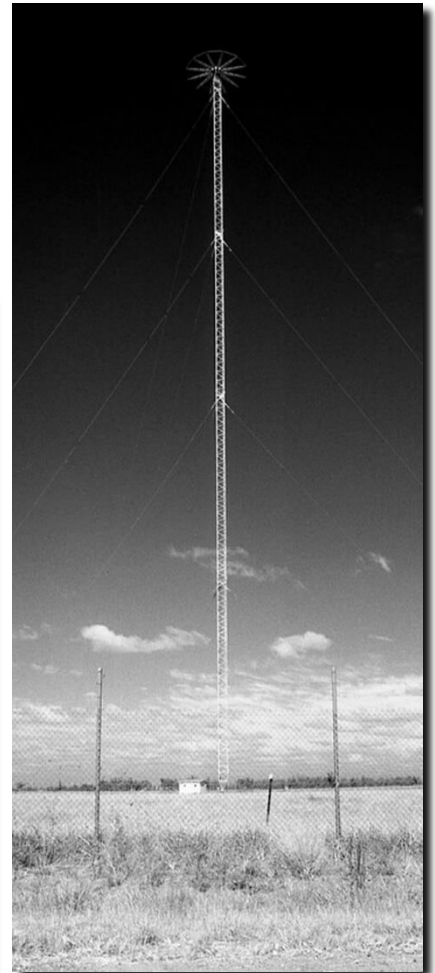
Notice is hereby given.
of the
Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc
Annual General Meeting.
Saturday 24th of August 2024 at 11:00am
with BBQ lunch to follow.

ABC HORSHAM 594 kHz 3WV MAST

Referred to the newsletter by Robert VK3ARM.

Standing 201-metres tall with a 19-metre wide capacitive 'top hat', the 3WV mast in western Victoria stands out in the vast flat landscape that stretches below it.

Celebrating 75th years of service, the occasion of World Radio Day seemed a worthy time to pay tribute to this impressive technological structure.



"It really meant a lot to us. It must've been a big undertaking in 1936 to build it because cranes and things that are about today weren't even heard of," says long time Horsham resident James Heard.

And while the locals are proud of the trusty Dooen mast, its power reaches far wider than just this wide brown land.

In fact, 594 AM has even been heard as far as Canada, Japan and South Africa.

The staggering reach is aided by the distinctive 'top hat' and the low frequency of the AM band. While obviously a success, the antenna was the first of its kind in Australia and acted as a prototype for other services.

"It's the first solid-state 50-kilowatt broadcast transmitter installed for the ABC, and it was the test bed for the installations across the rest of the country," says Tim Hughes, Transmission Coordinator for ABC Victoria.

So, whether you're tuning in from snowy Canada or just down the road, thanks be to the 3WV transmitter.

Source: Australian Broadcasting Corporation (World Radio Day ~ 2012)

3WM has moved its Horsham FM service to Dooen on the site of 3WV from Mt Zero and is transmitting from aerials mounted on the 500-foot AM tower using an iso coupling device. Sharing the antenna with ABC News Radio.
<https://www.wikiwand.com/en/3WM>

America's Cup Special Callsign

LOUIS VUITTON 37TH AMERICA'S CUP BARCELONA

NZART has been asked to supply a special event call sign for the upcoming America's Cup to be held in Spain later this year.

The following are specific race days; however the call sign can be used from now until the 30th November 2024:

Preliminary Regatta: 22nd- 25th August

Louis Vuitton Cup Round Robins: 29th

August- 8th September

Louis Vuitton Cup Semi Finals: 14th– 19th September

Louis Vuitton Cup Finals: 26th September- 5th October

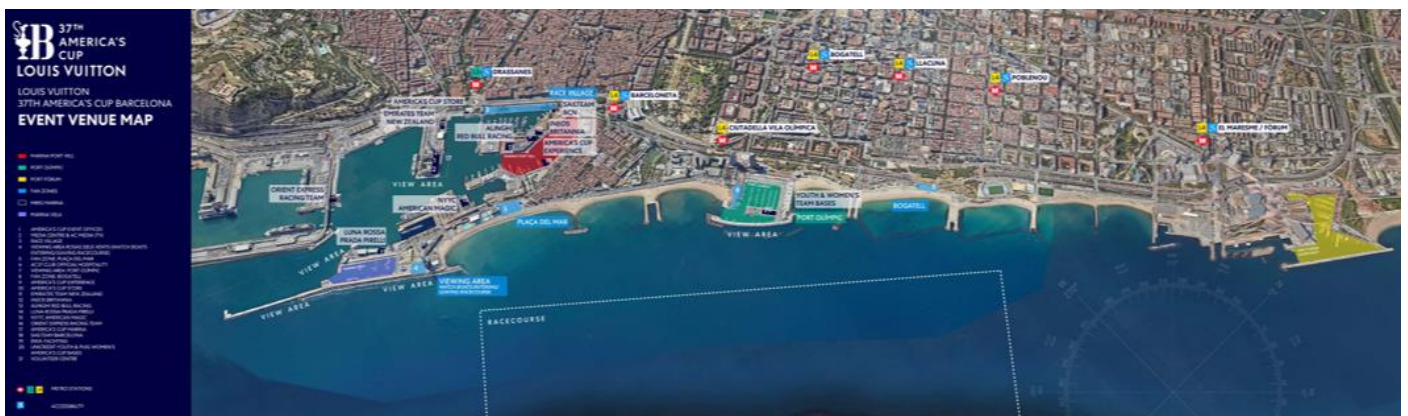
Louis Vuitton 37th America's Cup Match: 12th October- 21st

October

Reserve days are scheduled for the 22nd of October through to 27th October if required.

ZL6AMCUP has been allocated to celebrate this event, with Phil Garside ZL2RO as the trustee of the callsign.

Please log all use of ZL6AMCUP and send to Phil: zl2ro@xtra.co.nz for him to keep a record.



Not Forgotten Age of Country Victoria's Broadcasting



This article was written by John Williams, Treasures of Nhill and District Facebook Page and was published in the Nhill Free Press and Kaniva Times in April 2023

The Nhill Free Press predicted in 1922 that one day all homes would have a wireless set. But would Nhill ever have its own wireless station?

In a manner of speaking, Nhill finally has its own radio station, albeit a relay station for Horsham's 3WM.

It's a "No static FM" transmitter at Lawloit, giving listeners high-quality sound from Nhill to the South Australian border.

As far back as 1937, the then Lowan Council petitioned for a broadcast radio station at Nhill. They wanted the ABC's 3WV transmitter close to town, but it ended up at Dooen, near Horsham, for a number of practical reasons.

What you might call Nhill's first local radio station was 3HS which was based in Horsham and began broadcasting in 1933.

Prior to that, amateur radio hobbyists were able to drag in the signals of distant stations for special occasions.

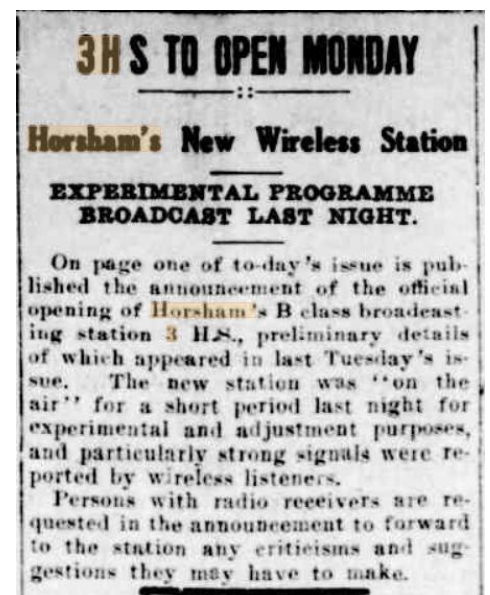
One of those amateurs was Herbert Brown from Yanac, who set up an experimental station with the callsign 3NN.

Broadcasting in earnest didn't begin until 1924 with what were called A and B class licences. A for the ABC and B for commercial stations.

Horsham's commercial 3HS was heard for the last time in 1936 after it was taken over by Melbourne's 3DB to become known as 3LK and, in effect, a relay station. The LK comes from the transmitter site at Lubeck. 3LK became 3WM in 1977.

In the beginning, radio stations were referred to as "wireless" stations, a British term that eventually went out of fashion during WW2 when we adopted the American "radio" moniker. However, advertising during the Golden Era reveals both terms were common.

If A.C. Everett of Warracknabeal had his way, Nhill wouldn't have radio at all. The conspiracy theorist claimed the radio waves from Broadcasting since 1924 had stopped the



rain in the Wimmera. The Weather Bureau said it was bunkum and refused to recommend to wireless stations that they shut down for a month to test the theory.

Nhill's big introduction to radio came in 1927 when a wireless was set up in the picture theatre for a broadcast of the Duke of York officially opening the new Parliament House in May. The Nhill Free Press published the following:

"All seating accommodation in the Theatre Royal was occupied by the local school children, and town and country residents, from 10.30 a.m. until noon today, with the historic ceremony of the opening of the Federal Parliament by the Duke of York at Canberra.

The instrument used was a United Distributors Udisco 8 valve wireless set, of which the Nhill Co-operative Society are the local agents and was specially installed for the occasion by the Lowan Shire Council.

The aerial was lent by Mr. G. Jordan. The set was in charge of Mr. S. N. Stagg, the wireless firms representative and Mr. L. Landers.

The broadcasting was somewhat marred by local electric motors, which were working, and other sets tuning in, but this also applied to private sets. One Brown model Q horn loud speaker was used."

In December of that year, the first broadcast made from Nhill was conducted by the Melbourne ABC station 3LO.

It was part of a special series of long-distance broadcasts and featured the Nhill Brass Band and other local artists providing the musical items.

It was the first of many broadcasts to originate from Nhill. In 1954 the Nhill Caledonian Ball was broadcast on 3LK, and since the ABC and 3WM have, at various times, broadcast from the town doing what is known in the trade as an "OB" (outside broadcast).

To encourage Nhillites to buy a radio set, Bongiorno Brothers were offering free joy flights in the Astor Aeroplane that visited Nhill in May 1928.

Before there were any radio stations in the Wimmera, the "Travelling Broadcaster" visited the region in the early 1930s.

Ballarat's 3YB was unique in the annals of Australian radio. It was the brainchild of Jack Young, who was the first announcer on the station who thought it would be good business to provide a radio service to towns outside of Ballarat.



[Image courtesy Nhill Free Press & Kaniva Times](#) [Photo: Nhill Free Press & Kaniva Times](#)

So, he came up with the idea of a travelling radio station setting up temporary operations in towns that were beyond normal radio range.

3YB toured the country towns in mobile studios that included an A-model Ford and a railway carriage.

A company was formed, and a licence was granted to operate a radio station anywhere in Victoria outside a radius of 30 miles from any existing station.

3YB (after Young of Ballarat) eventually found a permanent home in Warrnambool.

Radio at the time held such a fascination that basic wage earners bringing in around 6 pounds per week were prepared to painstakingly save up some 25 pounds for a two-valve wireless set.

As time progressed, the people of Nhill had the choice of listening to the ABC, commercial stations 3DB/LK and Swan Hill's 3SH, which was some distance away but had a good reach into Nhill and Kaniva on a good day.

(Boomers will remember the popular request programs on 3SH in the '60s)

Up until 1974, you had to have a licence to listen to the radio. And many locals were fined for tuning in without one.

The "Golden Age of Radio" lasted until TV arrived, and during that period, one of the most popular programs was the serial which often featured sagas of courtship and country life.

A personal memory. I was ready to be frightened, amused, amazed and delighted:



(In my dressing gown, sitting in front of the stove in a Nelson Street house, eating a supper of dripping fried bread and vegemite. Above on the mantelpiece, a Healing Bakelite radio emanating the voice of Roland Strong....."And now another authentic story from the files of the Victoria Police, only names and place names and dates have been altered ..D24 produced in the studios of Hector Crawford (pause) by Dorothy Crawford")

The 3DB/LK news theme Heart of Oak is another stirring memory. As for the radio serials, among the hundreds produced, a few that come to mind are: When a Girl Marries, Dr Paul, Life with Dexter, The Navy Lark, The Glums, Hancock's Half Hour, Dragnet, Dad and Dave, The Goons, Around the Horne, Yes What, Dan Dare, Dossier on Demetrius, Address Unknown... to name just a few.

There were quiz shows, Pick A Box, Ask the Oracle, Cop the Lot and Strike it Rich. Variety shows included the Happy Gang, Lux Radio Theatre, the Minstrels and Mobil Quest.

Since the so-called "Golden Years" of Radio" there have been many changes to the broadcasting landscape.

The number of listening options has sharply increased with the advent of FM, digital broadcasting and the internet.

With Nhill only just getting access to FM radio, we can assume it will be some years before DAB arrives in town (Digital Audio Broadcasting). At the moment only available in capital cities.

These days the only "LIVE" radio broadcasting is "talkback". The digital era has allowed radio announcers on music stations to record their show in a few minutes with a computer inserting the music and commercials.

Long gone are the days of an announcer playing records live from a desk with up to 4 turntables.

And the young ones today may well ask..." What is a record, a cassette or now even a CD for that matter".

They may also ask the oldies what they "looked at" when they listened to the wireless.

We didn't look at anything... "It was theatre of the mind". Low-power community or religious radio stations are not included in this story which is about mainstream broadcasting.

Thanks to Robert, VK3ARM for finding this article and

Karen Sloan, Production, Nhill Free Press & Kaniva Times for permission to publish.

Other images from

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/> https://www.radiomuseum.org/r/healing_308e.html

BAREC RADIOFEST 2024



Bendigo Amateur Radio & Electronics Club

Proudly presents the inaugural
BAREC RADIOFEST

Sunday August 18th 2024

East Bendigo Public Hall
35 Lansell Street
BENDIGO - Victoria

radiofest@barec.net.au

RD Contest AUGUST 17th – 18th 2024

This contest commemorates the Australian Amateurs who died during World War II and is designed to encourage friendly participation and help improve the operating skills of participants.

It is held on the weekend closest to the 15th August, the date on which hostilities ceased in the southwest Pacific area.

A perpetual trophy is awarded annually to the Australian state or territory with the best performance. The name of the winning State or Territory is inscribed on the trophy, and that State or Territory then holds the trophy for 12 months. The winning State or Territory is also given a certificate, as are leading entrants.

Amateurs will endeavour to contact amateurs in VK call areas, ZL and P29 on all bands except WARC bands. Modes allowed are PHONE, CW and RTTY as per the era remembered



Membership Fees Due

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group inc

Just a reminder that your annual membership subscription is due and payable. The fees for the year 2024/25 are \$35.00.

Please deposit or transfer funds into our Bendigo bank account details below.



BARG General Account.

BSB 633 000

Account Number 142 591 247



Furthermore, Could all renewing members please go to the Members page on our web site to complete the renewal membership form. This is to ensure we have up to date contact, call sign and emergency contact details.

The membership page is at

https://www.barg.org.au/?page_id=104

or use the direct link to the form here

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdlbui3zD6ccTKGmlkYWWe01HH20uDIsvpJjrLqZnG6V4BeRQ/viewform?usp=sharing>

73 Chris VK3QY Treasurer BARGinc.

Ps; Thank you again to those who have already paid

**Remember that 2 or more Bunnings Sausage Sizzles
each year, helps to keep our membership fee at \$35.00.**

I have a friend who writes songs about sewing machines.
She's a singer/songwriter.



Or sew it seams.

Sounds like she has really got her life stitched together.

GO PORTABLE AT MOONAMBEL!



Contributor Robert VK3ARM

Attention fellow Amateurs....

Would you be interested in a nice weekend away on the third weekend in October?

There's been a weekend gathering of Commercial HF users/travellers at Moonambel for more than 20 years. Some are with the VKS-737 Radio Network, some with others. They camp at the sports ground a short distance on the Avoca side of the Moonambel Township.

The annual get-together runs over the third weekend in October. This year it will be over the weekend of 19th and 20th of October 2024. Some arrive as early as Thursday and stay until the following Monday, camping around the oval or near the campfire. Camping costs last year were \$10 per night unpowered or \$15 per night powered. There is a limit on powered sites.

They are first in, best dressed.

With numbers gradually dropping as people stopped touring or became SKs, the last two years' events attracted less than 20 people.



Moonambel Gathering 2018



Moonambel Gathering 2018

Given that this event is open to anyone with an interest in HF radio and that Amateur Radio Operators certainly have an interest in HF radio, here's an invitation to go portable at Moonambel. You can share your Amateur Radio interests with others and by doing so, help to keep this annual event alive and well.

It's a Bring Your Own Everything event. The pavilion has clean toilets and showers. We don't use the pavilion rooms but there's plenty of roof area around the rooms.

So how about it? Pack your portable gear and camping stuff and make for Moonambel. Meet others and set up portable activations or just socialise around the large campfire that runs all weekend. For Parks activators there are a number of Parks and Reserves that can

be activated while you base camp at Moonambel. As a rough count I found more than 15 well under an hour travelling from Moonambel.

Moonambel has ranges north and south of the town. The recreation reserve is 275 metres above sea level. HF would be good, plenty of trees to tie antennas to. Six metres and the bottom end of two metres could be okay from generally north-east through south east, depending on conditions. Avoca is a short drive away. Maryborough is about 40 or so



minutes' pleasant drive if you fancy a pub meal.

One thing though... We have a get-together meal event on Saturday evening.

Everyone brings their own tea, table and chairs. They also bring a small inexpensive present, wrapped in gift paper. Raffle tickets are sold (One Dollar Each) and then lots of tickets are drawn with each drawn able to choose a mystery gift. Admittadly the raffle is somewhat rigged so that everyone gets to choose a present. Proceeds go to a nominated Charity, usually the RFDS. So don't forget to wrap up something and put it on the table. It's a good fun event.



How about it fellow Hams? Put it in your diaries.... 19th and 20th of October 2024
Contact Robert (VK3ARM) QTHR or Stuart Boden (0439 550 167)

- **As I've gotten older, people think I've become lazy. The truth is I'm just being more energy efficient.**
- **I want to be 18 again and ruin my life differently. I have new ideas.**
- **There is no such thing as a grouchy old person. The truth is that once you get old, you stop being polite and start being honest.**

BARG Members Club Dining Events

There are two monthly social events planned.

The ladies' morning coffee is planned for the first Tuesday morning of each month at 10:00am at **Live it Up**.

Greenhill Enterprise Centre, University Drive, Mt Helen

The dining day/night events are held on the 3rd Friday of each month at locations to be announced.

Daytime events will occur 3rd Saturday of each month at midday.

Notices will be sent out as a reminder to get numbers etc prior to booking each dinner.

Cheers. Ian VK3AXH

BARG Coffee Mornings

Come out for a chat, coffee, snack, and solve the world's problems, all in a morning.

Every Thursday Morning at 10:00 am

Food Seduction on Doveton

524 Doveton St Nth

Soldiers Hill

(The old Gove Bike Shop)

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF NEWSLETTERS, I HAVE USED SOME MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHS ON THE FRONT PAGE.

I HOPE TO CONTINUE THIS THEME BUT NEED HELP FROM READERS TO SUPPLY IMAGES EVEN REMOTELY CONNECTED WITH AMATEUR RADIO/ELECTRONICS.

50 Years Later, This Apollo-Era Antenna Still Talks to Voyager 2

Willie Jones in IEEE Spectrum, 2024-04-18:

<https://www.zeroretries.org/i/143760188/years-later-this-apollo-era-antenna-still-talks-to-voyager>

<https://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/nmc/spacecraft/display.action?id=1977-076A>

DSS-43 is the only antenna that can communicate with the probe.



For more than 50 years, Deep Space Station 43 has been an invaluable tool for space probes as they explore our solar system and push into the beyond. The DSS-43 radio antenna, located at the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex, near Canberra, Australia, keeps open the line of communication between humans and probes during NASA missions.

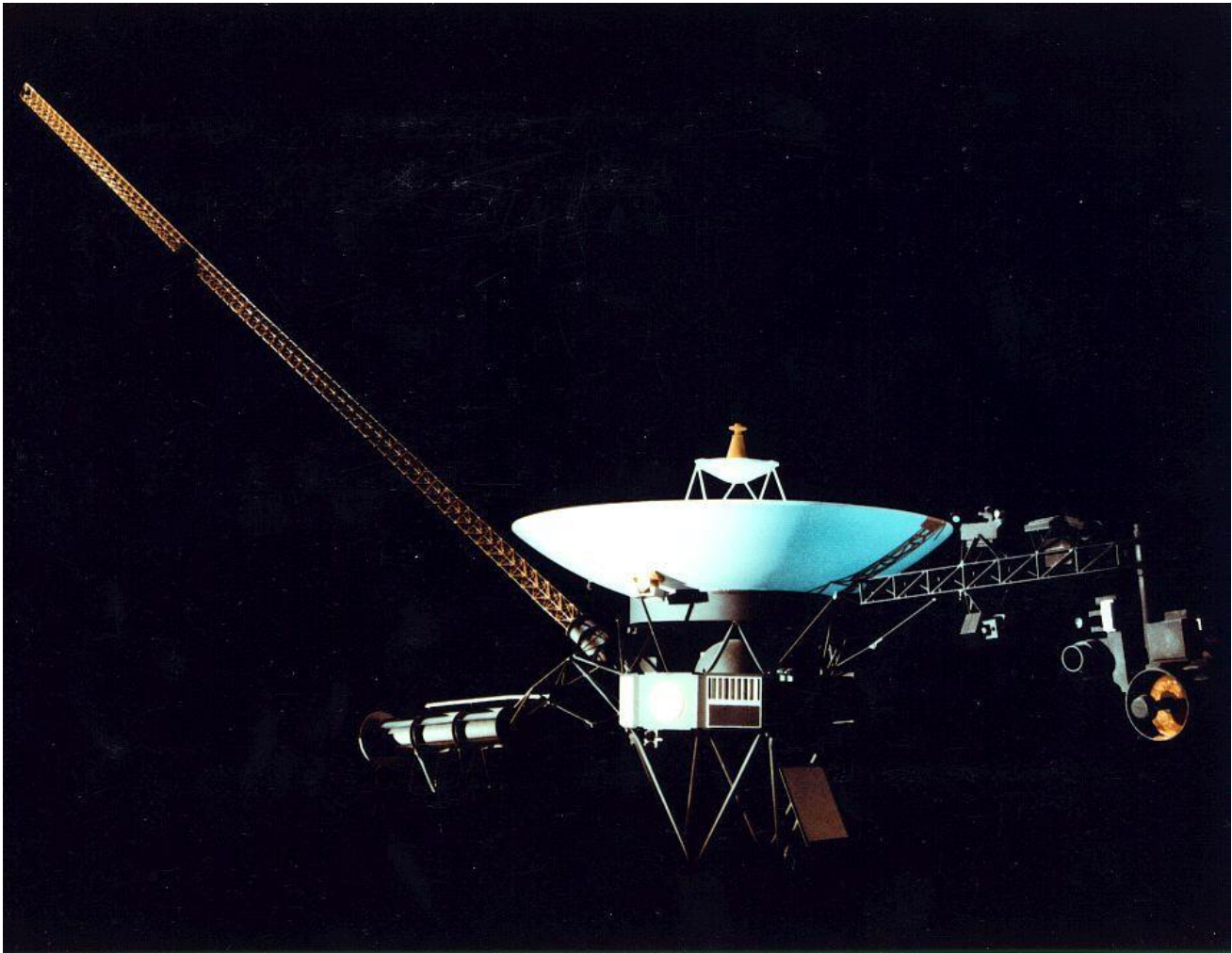
Today more than 40 percent of all data retrieved by celestial explorers, including Voyagers, New Horizons, and the Mars Curiosity rover, comes through DSS-43.

“As Australia’s largest antenna, DSS-43 has provided two-way communication with dozens of robotic spacecraft,” IEEE President-Elect Kathleen Kramer said during a ceremony where the antenna was recognized as an IEEE Milestone. It has supported missions, Kramer noted, “from the Apollo program and NASA’s Mars exploration rovers such as Spirit and Opportunity to the Voyagers’ grand tour of the solar system.

“In fact,” she said, “it is the only antenna remaining on Earth capable of communicating with Voyager 2.”

Voyager 2 was one of a pair of spacecraft launched to explore the planets of the outer solar system and the interplanetary environment.

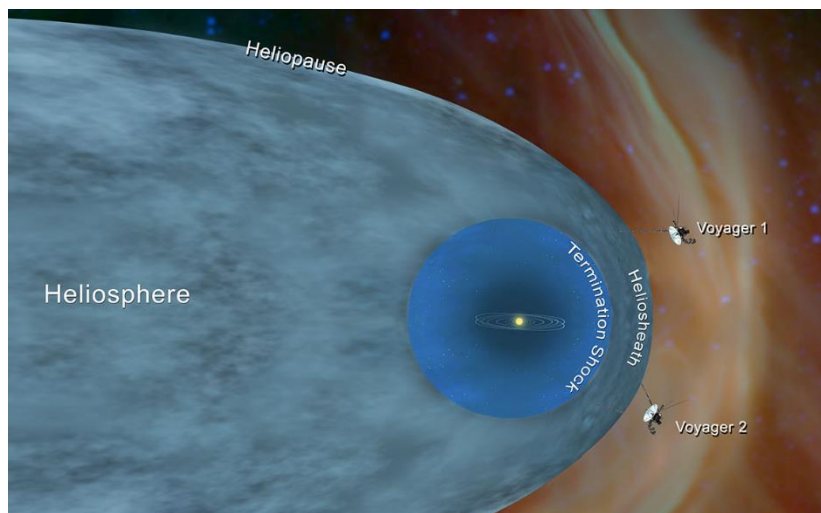
Communications were provided through the high-gain antenna with a low-gain antenna for backup. The high-gain antenna supported both X-band and S-band downlink



telemetry. Voyager was the first spacecraft to utilize X-band as the primary telemetry link frequency. Data could be stored for later transmission to Earth through the use of an on-board digital tape recorder.

Voyager, because of its distance from Earth and the resulting time-lag for commanding, was designed to operate in a highly autonomous manner.

Voyager 2 is speeding away from the Sun at a velocity of about 3.13 AU/year toward a point in the sky of RA=338 degrees, Dec=-62 degrees (-47.46 degrees ecliptic latitude, 310.89 degrees ecliptic longitude).



National Tree Day Sunday 28th July 2024

A special certificate is being issued to any amateur who activates a VKFF reference on National Tree Day on Sunday 28th July 2024.

Applications are to be made via email to vkffaustalia@gmail.com

Please send details of the park you activated, and a certificate will be emailed to you.

73 & 44, Paul VK5PAS.
VKFF National Co-Ordinator.



SGARS 80 Metre Contest 2024



The St George Amateur Radio Society Inc

Saturday 27 July 2024, 18:00 - 23:59

<https://www.sgars.org/index.php>

The intention of The St George Amateur Radio Society (SGARS) 80 metre Contest is for amateur radio operators to prepare for the annual Remembrance Day Contest following in August, so this contest is held on the last Saturday evening in July.

The SGARS 80m Trophy Contest is open to all operators using analogue and digital voice modes, CW morse code and other digital modes such as RTTY, SSTV etc.

The contest commences at 6.00 pm local time in one hour time slots until midnight. Extra points can be earned in the last hour and by making contact with the SGARS club station VK2LE.

Contest rules and details;

<https://www.sgars.org/index.php/downloads/1-contest-and-field-days>

44th A.L.A.R.A. CONTEST



NOTE: Contest is always on the last FULL weekend of August.

ELIGIBILITY: All licensed operators throughout the world are invited to participate. Scout and Girl Guide groups are encouraged to participate using their Club's equipment and callsign.

OBJECT: Participation: YLs work everyone; OM's work YLs only.

CONTEST: Combined phone and CW run over 24 hours:

STARTS: Saturday 25th August 2024 at 0600 hours UTC

ENDS: Sunday 26th August 2024 at 0559 hours UTC

SUGGESTED FREQUENCIES: All HF Bands except 160m & WARC Bands.

Contacts made on ECHOLINK will also be accepted.

OPERATION:

- YLs operating with their own callsigns.
- YLs from Scout and Girl Guides groups using their Club's equipment/callsign with a licensed Amateur present.
- Second operators. If YL is operating as a 2nd operator, her husband/partner **CANNOT** participate in the contest.
- Every individual phone or CW contact may be counted.
- There must be an interval of greater than **1 hour** between contacts with any one station on any one band and in the same mode.
- All contacts must be made in accordance with operator and station licence regulations.

PROCEDURE: Phone: Call "CQ ALARA CONTEST"

CW: YLs call "CQ TEST ALARA"

OMs call "CQ YL"

EXCHANGES: **ALARA member:** RS or RST, serial no. starting at 001, ALARA member, name.

YL non-member, OM: RS or RST, serial no. starting at 001, name and whether YL or OM.

OMs work YLs only

SCORING: **Phone:** 5 points for ALARA member logged
4 points for YL non-member logged or Scout and Guide groups (YL's)
3 points for OM logged including from Scout groups (OM's)

CW: **All contacts made on CW count for double points**

OM or Scout group(OM's):

5 points for ALARA member logged
4 points for YL non-member logged or Scout and Guide groups (YL's)

LOGS:

- Single log entry. Logs must show date, UTC time, band, mode, call sign worked, report and serial number sent, report and serial number received, first name of operator of station worked and points claimed.
- Scout and Girl Guide participants should also include their patrol name.
- **Please note in mode if contact is on Echolink.**
- Paper logs or electronic logs are both welcome.
- **LOGS MUST** show full name, call sign and address of operator, and show final score (points claimed).
- **ELECTRONIC LOGS MUST BE IN A FORMAT WHICH CAN BE PRINTED BY MICROSOFT WORD OR MICROSOFT EXCEL.**
- Logs must be legible. No logs will be returned. Decision of the Contest Manager will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

<https://www.alara.org.au/download/Alara%20Contest%20Log.xlsx> to download the General Logging Spreadsheet

30th September 2024 CONTEST MANAGER: Mrs Marija Simmonds, PO Box 169, Mount Barker SA 5251 AUSTRALIA or: alaracontest@wia.org.au

Magazine Reviews

QST July 2024 Review

- P9. Second Century. ARRL and the importance of having a seat on the table of SAFECOM and the importance for all emergency communications bodies.
- P13. Member Sloan Davis Jr. N3UPS. Involved in amateur radio, scouts and getting his pilot's licence which led him to be piloting a Doctor about. This led him to a commercial flying job with the UPS company for 33 years until retirement. Now busy with POTA, AMSAT and satellites, Hamfests, ARISS, flying gliders and now getting back into working CW contacts.
- P20. Upfront. Look at one hams antenna for receiving satellites . It's a five-foot (that's American sizes) DYI dish made from chicken wire and timber , a soup can for the feedhorn and a SDR . The antenna sits on the patio at the back door and has allowed hearing the Weather sat beast.
- P24. Letters cover a range but once again looks at where the term "HAM" came about to describe amateur radio operators. POTA and more FT8 is called for. One 76 year older "ham" wants to reverse the trend of miniaturizing components in equipment manufacturing as "older people cannot see and use buttons, knobs and Controls. Also, the eyesight calls for more intense white light on the subject.
- P34. In an Emergency when your power fails or the vehicle battery takes a dive, how can you stay on the air and maintain reliable comms.? By using the relevant battery from the work shop off the power tools. Depending on the brand of tool the batteries may have some different connectors so you can have a couple of pre made leads with spades to suit environment.
- P36. A GUI-Based morse code controller. By WT3JJ.
- P39. Review. RF Finder B1 plus Dual Band DMR/FM Txvr/Smartphone. With one of these why do we need a communications transceiver.
- P44. Review. N2EME Rx-In Rx-Out 0 to 450MHz
- P48. Review. Of the HALIBUT Electronics Common Mode Current test rig. This little beauty allows you to wind own coils and Toroid's then insert in the rig and test with the VNA see [WWW.utube.com/watch?v=3ReRu7YT4Ao`](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ReRu7YT4Ao) The board is double sided and the kit of parts cost USD\$59.
- P51. Ask Dave. Antennas keep Hams Busy. Determine matching Loss with a Nano VNA and the possible cause of an exploded ceramic insulator on an antenna that's been up a number of years.
- P53. Hints and Hacks. Ideas for keeping gear in place, Try a cord/coax protector for outside use.
- P55 MICROWAVES. Testing and Troubleshooting a Microwave transverter. Using a Spec Analyser but not every shack has one. W1GHZ recommends the only two items of test gear really needed are an Digital Multimeter [DVM] and a simple RF



power detector like that described earlier in Micro wavelengths April 2023 QST. A copy of this mag should be available in the club library now. Another piece of kit is an inexpensive Nano VNA or tiny ultra spectrum analyser as reviewed by Phil Selas AD5X in same magazine of August 2023.

- P63. GOES-16 Satellite and Emergency management.
- P68. Creating Remote Off the Grid power for emergency.
- P73. Martin K5FLU has closed the doors to his company of MFJ instruments. He started it 52 years ago and now at 80 years of age he wants to enjoy retirement. They will still be selling gear as there's plenty of stock AND they will also accept equipment back for warranty service.
- P92. How's DX. Clipperton Island TX5S the 2024 expedition
"administered by the French Polynesian government the expeditions to the island must include a non-amateur activity in the form of a Scientific experiment. With 16 team members and three scientific team men they landed on the island in January 23 with a six-day permit. The last expedition was in 2011 and this time the 60m band and FT8 was used along with a 2.4M used on 23cm to good effect on 23cm to the satellite. Worked 55 countries The daily contacts saw some 14,217 CONTACTS PER DAY WITH TWO DAYS 'HAVING 18,000 contacts per day. some pics.
- P94. World above 50MHz Satellite activity will expand your VHF/UHF horizons. Of some interest is report of VK6PY working the satellite IO-117 on 70cm along with report that VK9DX worked on 50MHz on 20April at 1340 UTC. Also, there is currently a 2.4M dish down at Antarctica base [VK0DS] really VK2DJS with 70W. Dave will be there for a year so keep looking for a contact from down there.
- P96. Listing some SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS.
- P102. Looks at QST for August 1974 and the first project is the Remote control for the Morse CODE TIME IDENTIFIER.
- P108. 100, 50 and or
- P126. Index to Advertisers.



And as that little gardener friend on the ABC used to say, "that's your Blooming lot.?"

Craig VK3KG.

Lo-Key, Journal of the VK QRP Club, June 2024, No 162

- P2 President's Notes. Trevor VK5ATQ, Club Admin, CW Training, Books and Magazine.
- P6 Club News. Kevin VK5AKZ. Lloyd Butler VK5BR, SK. New member, Lo-Key index, Feedback "Digital Copy" Lo-Key.
- P9 QRP Hours 80m Contest April results. Garry VK2GAZ.
- P10 VHF/UHF QRP DSB and CW with a Quansheng UV-K5 Handheld. Peter VK3YE. Exploring the different capabilities of the UV-5K H/H in the QRP HF world.
- P14 The Pixie 2 QRP Transceiver, Jens VK4PE. Mods and improvements to the classic Pixie QRP rig. Including component changes for 160m all the way to 6m operation.



- P21 Electronic Keyers and Paddles. David VK5BUG. Link to resource for choice and collectors view of electronic keyers and paddles.
- P21 Concern about loss of Operator Skill. David VK5BUG. Expressing a view about how the popularity and use of CW has changed over the years.
- P24 Members Classifieds.
- P25 Chris-Crossword. Chris VK1CT.



Silicon Chip July 2024 Review

- P2 Editorial: Jamieson Rowe is retiring from Silicon Chip; he has been involved in most fields of electronic publication since the 1960's.
- P14 Repairable and Open Source Electronics. Dr David Maddison, VK2DSM. Discusses the areas of Open Source and the right to repair personal electronics goods. Looking at older tech and modern tech and the ease of the user to modify and repair and the modern manufacturers and their fight to control this process.
- P26 Automatic LQ Meter. Charles Kosina. A nice RF designing tool that measures inductance and Q factor of a coil. 0.1 to 999uH, Q factor 10 to 300 and test frequency from 100kHz to 90MHz. It uses the Si5351 clock chip and operates off three AA or 5Vdc.
- P39 Review Raspberry Pi5. Tim Blythman. Looking at the new features of the Pi5 and its differences to the earlier models.
- P44 180 – 230V DC Motor Speed Control. Part 1. John Clarke. A motor controller for ¼ HP to 2½ HP motors, zero to full speed capability, emergency cut-out and automatic over-current protection. Speed regulation by Back EMF sensing. Optimised design for DC rather than Universal Motors.
- P54 Repurposing the Mains Power Up Sequencer. John Clarke. Adapting the sequencer to a typical real world scenario. Generators and Inverters and high surge loads requiring timed startups to prevent overloads.
- P58 Adding Automatic Solar Charging to an Electric Van. Roderick Boswell. The process of adding solar panels to an EV van to minimise the reliance on mains power charging. By using 6 x 510W PV and some charging smarts, enabling up to 18,000km of driving at no extra charging costs.
- P64 Mini Project. Lava Lamp Display. Tim Blythman. Using a 8 x 5 programmable LED shield and a UNO along with code to produce a lava lamp effect in 2D.
- P68 Mini Project. Digital Compass. Tim Blythman. Using a Digital Compass Module, Arduino and a 4 digit 7 segment display and provision at add correction data of declination.



- P72 1000W Workman Loudspeaker. Allan Linton-Smith. A speaker for the earlier Silicon Chip 1000W IRAUDAMP-9 based amplifier. The speaker is house in a DeWalt 233L transportable toolbox.
- P80 Vintage Radio. Experimental One-Valve Superhet Radio. Fred Lever. Construction of a junkbox valve superhet, quite a challenge to do it with one valve.
- P86 Serviceman's Log. Dave Thompson. Stress testing electronics, chlorinator for rust removal, switch-mode battery charger, LG TV power supply, WiFi controlled LEDs.



Sprat, Journal of the G-QRP Club, Summer 2024, No 199

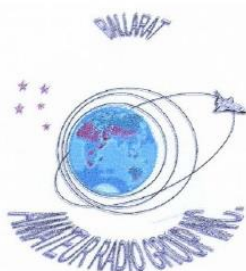
- P2 Editorial: Steve G0FUW (Chairman). Golden anniversary projects, new treasurer needed. Over 4,000 members worldwide,
- P3 Easy 60m addition to an 80m OCF. Bill GM4UBJ. Construction of a unique off-centre fed dipole for 80m, 60m and 40m.
- P4 QRPP VXO Transmitter For 5MHz. Kevin MW0KXN. Circuit and construction details for a crystal controlled single BJT oscillator with 50Ω low-pass filter with 60mW output power.
- P6 How I Got on To 23cm Cheaply. Peter VK3YE. Text to go with Peter's YouTube video about using simple techniques to get on air with a Quansheng handheld on 70cm and varactor tripler for the transmitter. Using a bowtie antenna and SDR receiver.
- P9 G-QRP Convention & Telford Hamfest 2024. Steve G0FUW. Saturday August 31st and Sunday 1st September, including talks about kit building and antennas.
- P10 VHF Managers Report. John G8SEQ. Using QRP with satellites, OSCARs and the ISS.
- P11 A Portable Tester for Moving Coil Meters. Chris G3XIZ. A simple bit of gear to test those old or unknown moving coil meters, ideal for Hamfests to check meters before you buy. Uses a 9V PP3 battery.
- P13 Micromountaineer Mods. Roger ND7PA. Modifications and addons to a rig described in August 1973 QST.
- P14 A Multiband HF Aerial For Small Garden. Mike G8GYW. Pictures and diagrams for a custom wire antenna for corner placement in limited backyard space.
- P16 W32KENDER-RX. Philip G4HOJ. Circuit and construction details for a 3 band, 2 valve receiver. 80m, 60m and 40m.
- P19 Blinkin' 'Eck – an LED Flasher. David G4COE. Circuit for a single BJT LED flasher that only has emitter and collector connections.
- P20 Counterpoise Directionality. John VE3IPS. Observations of using counterpoise in various configurations.
- P22 7 – 14MHz DC Rx With Diode Switching. Giovanni IT9TZZ. Using ideas from CQ Elettronica and Winter 1991 Sprat, this Rx uses NE612 mixer and band switching with 1N4148 diodes.



- P26 A 50 year old dream come true. Guy ON5FM. Resurrection of an old Ten-Tec Argonaut 509 bought as a box of parts.
- P28 Valve QRP News. Paddy G4MAD. Reports from members using valve rigs, bought and homebrew at QRP power levels.
- P30 The "Widow Maker". Paddy G4MAD. A simple HT PSU for QRP Filamenters.
- P32 Activity Report. Enzo M0KTZ. Review of the past months Sun activity and effects on the bands. G-QRP 50th Anniversary Special Events Stations and weekly QRP activity slots.
- P35 Members'; news. Chris G4BUE. Reports from around the globe from members and their QRP on air activities.



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